

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SES-02
SAA-01 /075 W
-----124532 281310Z /44

R 280907Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1699
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4744

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, JA, KU
SUBJ: KUWAIT REJECTS OFFER OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

REF: TOKYO 14987

1. KUWAIT PRESS OF AUGUST 25 CARRIED NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FROM TOKYO INDICATING THAT JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA WILL VISIT UAE, QATAR, IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA DURING TRIP COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 5. SAME REPORTS STATE THAT A VISIT TO KUWAIT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE AND THAT KUWAITI OFFICIALS HAD APOLOGIZED BECAUSE THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT.

2. DURING A CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 27, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TAKAMATSU CONFIRMED THAT GOK HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, GIVING INSUFFICIENT TIME REASON CITED BY PRESS. THIS REACTION HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT BEEN EXPECTED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD ORDERED
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TAKAMATSU TO CURTAIN HIS LEAVE IN EUROPE TO RETURN TO KUWAIT TO PREPARE FOR VISIT. AMBASSADOR, WHILE NONCOMMITTAL, WAS CLEARLY DISPLEASED BY TURN OF EVENTS.

3. COMMENT: GOK PLEA THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO PREPAR FOR FUKUDA'S VISIT CAN BE JUSTIFIED ON BASIS OF PLACING PLEASURE BEFORE BUSINESS. WITH LONG ID AL-FITR

HOLIDAYS PROBABLY BEGINNNING HERE ON SEPTEMBER 2, MANY KUWAITI OFFICIALS WILL BE ON LEAVE EITHER IN-COUNTRY OR OUTSIDE WITH NORMAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS NOT EXPECTED TO RESUME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9 AFTER NORMAL THURSDAY/FRIDAY WEEKEND. THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WOULD HAVE SPOILED THESE VACATION PLANS. HOWEVER, AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE KUWAITI NEGATIVE DECISION IN THIS INSTANCE MAY RELATE TO FACT THAT VISIT TO KUWAIT WAS SECOND CHOICE AFTER CAIRO PORTION OF FUKUDA'S ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TOUR WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF CAMP DAVID. KUWAITIS HAVE INCREASINGLY HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF SELF-IMPORTANCE, ENHANCED BY MANY MENDICANT VISITS BY POORER HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT THAN JAPANESE, AND WERE MORE THAN LIKELY PLEASED TO FIND AN EXCUSE WHICH WOULD BOTH SATISFY THEIR INFLATED EGOS AND THEIR VACATION DESIRES.
MAESTRONE

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